GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:993
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to encourage women in the rural areas to carry out development programmes at the village level and train to carry out gender audit of the development programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this programme has helped the rural women for getting the benefits of the programme at the village level;

(d) whether any internal study has been made of the effectiveness of this programme; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof and the steps proposed to modify the weak aspects of this programme?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) & (b): - There is no specific development Programme at present exclusively for women in the Ministry. However, the Government of India`s Rural Development Programmes have a Women`s component to ensure flow of benefits to this section.The major schemes, having women`s component (implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development) include the following :-

The Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.99 covering various aspects ofself- employment, such as organisation of the poor into Self -Help Groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. It is envisaged that 50% of the group formed in each Block should be exclusively for women who will account for at least 40% of the Swarozgaris.

The Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.99, with the twin objectives of creation of demand-driven community village infrastructure and the generation of supplementary employment (for the unemployed poor) in the rural areas. It is stipulated that 30% of the employment opportunities should be reserved for women.

The Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) aims at providing assistance for the construction of houses for people `Below the Poverty Line` in rural areas. Under the scheme, priority is extended to widows and unmarried women. It has been laid down that IAY houses are to allotted in the name of women members of the household or alternatively, in the joint names of husband and wife.

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), whichcame into effect five years back represents a significant step towards introducing a National Policy for Social Assistance benefits to households `Below the Poverty Line` with a major focus on women.

Under the RuralWater Supply Programme(ARWSP),training is being imparted to women to enable them to play an active role in using and maintain hand pumps for the supply of drinking water. Women are also represented in Village Level Committees and are actively involved in the selection of sites for hand pumps and other sources.

One third of the seats have been reserved for women in all three tiers of the Panchayati Raj Institutions so that they can take active part in the development process at the village level.
Wherever and whenever necessary, to the extent possible, training is imparted to women to prepare them for different development Programmes. Where targets are fixed for women, the gender audit is taken care of by the Monitoring system.

(c) The targets fixed for women under the Programmes are achieved by and large.

(d) & (e) There has been evaluations of Programmes from time to time, but no separate evaluation has been done for the women`s component.